

MERCHANTS AFTER THIEVING PATRONS

To Ask for Protection Against People Who Get Goods C. O. D. and Refuse to Pay.

WANT R. F. & P. LAW REPEALED

Work of Bureau That Inquires as to Reliability of Customers to Be Extended.

Retail merchants of Richmond are vigorously at work in an effort to secure favorable action by the General Assembly on a series of bills designed to improve trade conditions and remove opportunities for fraud that are costing dealers thousands of dollars each year. One of the measures will make it a felony to pass worthless checks, another relates to the vexed question of fire and auction sales. From the popular point of view, however, probably the most interesting of all is a bill which will soon be offered providing that the title to goods delivered on memoranda—C. O. D. or the like—shall remain vested in the merchants until payment is made, and that the retention of such goods on the part of customers, who at the same time refuse to meet the bills, shall constitute a misdemeanor.

It happens many times in the life of the merchant that when a parcel sent C. O. D. is delivered the customer receives it at the door, goes promptly inside the house and does not return. After waiting some time the porter rings again, and the customer, with some display of hurt dignity, tells the porter that he will see the proprietor in person and pay. The porter may reply that he has orders to bring either the goods or the money back, and the customer may claim the door in his face. Fearful of a riot, for fear the porter does not attempt to invade the house, but leaves. Merchants state that thousands of dollars worth of goods is lost annually in this way. The proposed bill, which is being drawn with great care by a prominent Richmond lawyer, will open the way to effective proceedings in the criminal courts against this customer, which way does not exist under the present law.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Retail Merchants' Association of Richmond was held last week, and was full of interest to the large attendance. The officers who served the association, so faithfully during the past year were all unanimously re-elected, as follows: President, T. A. Miller. First Vice-President, Samuel Cohen. Second Vice-President, William C. Seligman. Treasurer, L. H. Kaufman. Secretary, W. A. Clarke, Jr. Directors—L. O. Miller, Moses Thibault, Raphael Levy, S. P. Jones, E. A. Dietrich, S. P. Owens, H. B. Bowles, Leon Detelbach, Fred Jurgens and D. A. Miller read his annual report, reviewing the work of the year and making valuable suggestions for the work of the future.

Want Civil Court.

Mr. Moses Seligman presented a bill for the creation of a civil court, and asked the association for its endorsement and for the appointment of a special committee of five to present the matter to the Legislature for its consideration. Mr. Samuel Cohen warmly supported this measure, pointing out the advantages to be derived by retail merchants from the new court.

How They Pay Bills.

The report from the association's credit information bureau showed this department to be in a flourishing condition, and to have developed into one of the most valuable features of the organization. The department furnishes the members with information as to how customers pay their bills, and has proven so useful during the past year that steps were taken to put it on a higher plane of efficiency for the coming twelve months.

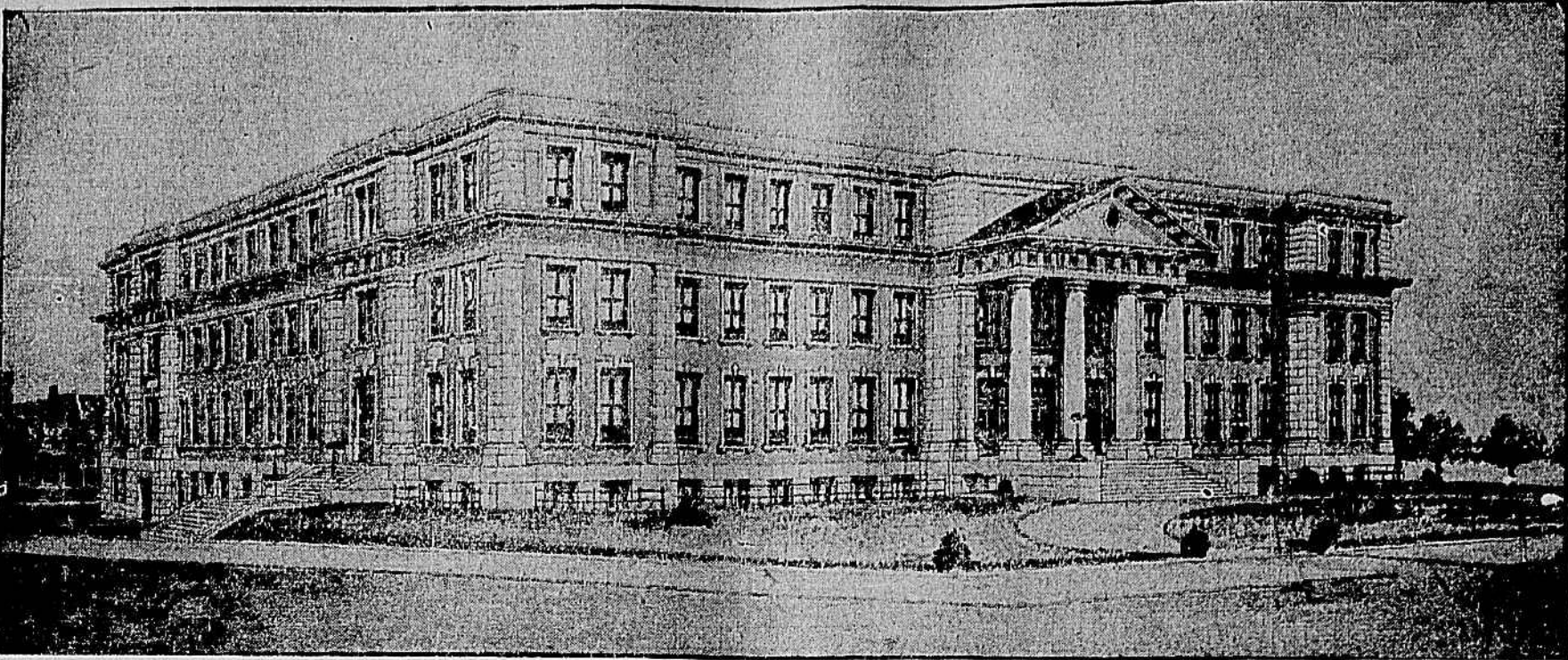
To Have Banquet

Noted Speaker to Address Y. M. C. A. Workers Here.

To perpetuate an organization which did such splendid work in raising the fund for the new Young Men's Christian Association building, the leaders of that movement announced yesterday that a banquet will be given here, possibly on the evening of January 21st, at which time a speaker of national importance will be the guest of honor. The local campaign committee, which was one of the most remarkable in its kind on record. The money—over \$250,000—was subscribed in fifteen days, the interest in the event advertising the city in a most substantial manner. The campaign aroused the business people of Richmond, and realizing the great value derived from unity of purpose, thought and action, the organization has been made permanent. Following are the officers: President, N. D. Sills; First Vice-President, O. J. Sands; Second Vice-President, C. A. Brown; Secretary, Thomas P. Bryan; Treasurer, J. S. James; Captains—D. L. McVette, M. McGuffee, R. S. Tuck, S. Wilby, W. Meek, S. W. Bahke, E. N. Newman, H. P. Powell, W. D. Duke and C. J. Billups.

The name of the principal speaker at the banquet, which will probably be held at the Jefferson Hotel, has not been announced. The program, however, will be made public within the next few days.

BIDS TO BE SUBMITTED THIS WEEK FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING



ACCEPTED DESIGN FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL. Bids will be submitted this week for the new High School building, which will occupy practically the entire block bounded by Marshall and Clay and Eighth and Ninth Streets. The plans drawn by Architect Charles K. Bryant, and accepted by the School Board, will make it possible for the contractors to keep within the sum to be appropriated, which is \$1,500,000. Work, however, will not begin until the money is made available by City Council. Though the building will be imposing in appearance, it will not be a costly structure. With three stories and a basement, there will be ample room. Especial attention has been given to the matter of light and ventilation and to the arrangement of the interior.

LITTLE GIRL, BURNED WHILE PLAYING, DIES

Seven-Year Old Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hersman Meets Tragic Death.

GRASS AFIRE IN FIELD

Child's Clothes Caught Before She Was Aware of Approaching Flames.

Catching fire at about 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon from burning grass in a field near her home, little seven-year-old Julia Claiborne Hersman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin B. Hersman, of No. 2292 Park Avenue, was so badly injured about the back and limbs that, although three physicians worked over her in a desperate attempt to save her life, she died nearly seven hours later.

In company with a crowd of little boys and girls, Julia was playing in the field, which is at the end of the block on which her parents' home stands. Often before the children had amused themselves by setting fire to the dry weeds and grass which covered the vacant lot, and a ten-year-old boy thought to entertain the others by repeating the trick.

ESTATE IS SOLD

Historic Place Where 500 Federal Soldiers Perished.

One of the most historic estates in Henrico, the old Garthwright homestead, in Varian District, has been sold for a division among the heirs, and bought by Mr. William B. Frayser, former county treasurer. The farm, which contains 122 1/2 acres, has been in the Garthwright family for more than a century. During the war it was the scene of carnage and bloodshed. On the best of authority it is stated that 500 men perished here in Butler's dash to capture New Market heights.

STILL SEARCHING

Bauer Goes Out Every Day to Look for Body of Barnes.

Robert Bauer, the young man whose heroic but fruitless efforts to locate Edward Barnes from drowning about a week ago, made him one of the most talked of persons in the city, finds that the honor is in some respects an empty one. He was out of a job when he asked his life for his friend, and despite his efforts since, he has been unable to land one. Bauer is a generous, kind, and brave man, but as there seems nothing in that line now, he laughingly says that until he joins the pitching staff of the Norfolk team at a good round salary, he is open for any kind of engagement that will bring in an honest dollar.

BIG WESTERN CHURCH AFTER DR. M'DANIEL

Offers Him Assistant Pastor, Stenographer and Any Salary He Will Name.

CONGREGATION IS AROUSED

Held Meeting Yesterday and Increased Minister's Salary to \$5,400 Per Year.

Much concern has been aroused among the denomination in Richmond over the possible departure for other fields of labor of the Rev. George W. McDaniel, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church. Dr. McDaniel has been under consideration a call from the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Okla., a large and flourishing congregation in a strong Baptist community, and has as yet given no indication of his final determination, although he admits that much pressure is being brought to bear by his friends in the Southwest to have him return to that section.

Yesterday the congregation of the First Church held a meeting, and as a mark of its appreciation of the services of Dr. McDaniel, voted to raise his salary \$1,200 a year, making the total \$5,400, the largest salary paid to a Protestant minister in Richmond or in Virginia. Members of the church here express the hope that sufficient influence can be brought to bear on their minister to induce him to stay in Richmond, where his work has been so successful. By his energy and ability, Dr. McDaniel, who is but thirty-two years of age, and who has been preaching but eight years, has raised himself to the front rank in his denomination.

Three years ago he came to the First Baptist Church in this city from the Second Baptist Church, of Dallas, Tex., where he had a remarkably successful ministry. Since he has been here the congregation of the First Church has steadily increased, until during recent months no preacher in the city has regularly addressed more crowded houses. Accompanying the increase in membership has been an increase in financial ability. During the last year the church gave \$35,000 to all causes.

Dr. McDaniel has served notice that on next Sunday a collection will be taken for the new Woman's College, and that the congregation will be expected to give \$10,000. From inquiries made yesterday, it seems probable that the sum will be realized.

Attractive Call.

Dr. McDaniel is a Texan by birth, and retains his love for the open air life of the plains, spending his vacations in horseback trips into the prairie of Texas on open air preaching expeditions among the cowboys, among whom he is recognized as a great hero.

The call comes from the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, the capital of Oklahoma, the largest and most vigorous congregation in that rapidly growing place, with a new church building seating 2,300 people. The invitation practically allows Dr. McDaniel to name his own salary, and offers him the services of an assistant pastor and a private stenographer and secretary. Dr. McDaniel himself was out of the city yesterday.

MAIN STREET RENT BY BURSTING MAIN

Stream Poured Through Big Hole and Flooded Thoroughfare for Some Blocks.

SITUATION WAS DANGEROUS

By the bursting of the sixteen-inch water main opposite the post-office early this morning, Main and Cary Streets and all the intervening blocks between the break and the Main Street Station were deluged by a flood that looked not unlike a mountain current.

The break occurred a few minutes after midnight, and it was 1:30 o'clock before the water was cut off, and then nearly half an hour before it ceased to flow. Before 12 o'clock passersby noticed a bulge in the north side of the street, between the west entrance to the post-office yard and Eleventh Street. The street continued to rise until it had come up at least half a foot in places, and then of a sudden the earth gave way, and a spout of water shot into the air.

With the rush of water the hole rapidly enlarged, until it was several feet square, and the stream, finding easier passage as it from a gayer and raced forth as if from a geyser, and raced down Main and Cary Streets and the intervening side streets, until most of it was lost in sewers and in Shockoe Creek. Fortunately, only in a few places did the torrent rise over the pavement, and then only for a few feet. It poured into the cellar of the barber shop on Twelfth and Main Streets, and probably into the cellar of T. C. Sublett's cigar store, on the same corner.

Main Street was flooded between the break and Seventeenth Streets, across its entire width, and Cary Street was in the same condition between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets. No other cellars probably were flooded, but the Main Street owl car had to discontinue its run and use the Broad Street line to reach Church Hill.

Police Sergeant Kerse and Officer Newman telephoned into the night office of the Water Department, but it was not until a man arrived to cut off the supply at the various points. Acting Superintendent Davis came at last with two men. They cut off the supply at Tenth Street and at cross intersections at four other points below.

The broken main is connected with one as large as on Broad Street, and the supply be cut off from the other side, since the supply in the Broad Street main would be forced back, on the principle that water seeks its own level.

Mr. Davis could not explain the cause of the break, unless it were because of faulty construction in the pipe. The main is a new one put down last year, and is guaranteed for 200 years. He said the break could not have been caused by the water pressure, as the main has not been long enough in the ground.

Damage to the street will probably be found to be quite extensive, as the cobblestones were forced up to a height of several inches for a distance of fifty or sixty feet from the breaking point, and then sank as the pressure was relieved. These will probably have to be taken up for that distance and relaid.

No Night Watchman.

Mr. Davis explained his apparent tardiness in arriving by stating that it was some time before he received the message that he was needed, and then had to dress and get two men to come with him. He said that the office of the Water Department does not maintain a night watchman, or the damage might have been repaired sooner. Breaks of this extent in water mains are of very infrequent occurrence, he said, and therefore a watchman is too rarely needed to be of much service.

So great was the water pressure that it gushed and bubbled and spouted with the force of a big artesian spring, and the occasion was beneficial at least in the opportunity it afforded for observation as to the water pressure in Richmond. Sand dunes were distributed about Main Street, mainly as far down as Seventeenth. The greatest volume of water turned down Eleventh, Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets, and down Cary to Shockoe Creek, which carried its added burden to the river.

ALUMNI MEET AND DENOUNCE BILL

Sons of V. P. I. Declare Rison Measure Is "Unwarranted Attack" on School.

COMMITTEES ARE NAMED

Statement Issued Last Night by Chairman, Setting Forth Position of Institute.

Richmond alumni of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute met Saturday night in the parlors of the Jefferson Hotel for the consideration of important matters.

The gathering was enthusiastic, and the session was the most largely attended ever held by the local chapter. Mr. P. M. Fry, president, occupied the chair. Dr. Paul B. Barlinger, president of the institute, discussed the bill introduced in the Legislature by Senator Rison, looking to the removal of the geological department of the V. P. I. to the University of Virginia, making it a part of the latter institution. The bill was roundly denounced as an unwarranted attack on the institute, and a committee of five, composed of Mr. H. M. Smith, Mr. Isaac Diggs, Mr. P. M. Fry, Mr. Arthur Cannon and Mr. Tom Watson, was appointed to wait on the legislative committee on Schools and Colleges, and make a strong effort to kill the measure at once.

A committee of publicity, with Mr. George Hutchinson as chairman, was also appointed to present the side of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the State press. The move was alleged by those present to be the first in a series of attacks upon the work being done by the institute, and the move was generally expressed that it would be nipped in the bud.

It was declared that the University of Virginia has assumed most of the credit for the geological display made at the National Exposition, and that the exhibition was in fact entirely prepared by officials of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Mr. Hutchinson, who is secretary of the Richmond chapter, issued last night the following statement as to the stand taken by the V. P. I. Alumni in regard to Senator Rison's bill: "Briefly, we are of the following opinion: We take exception to the use of the word 'creation' as the State Geological Survey has existed for ten years at the V. P. I.

"We can see no reason for the removal of this department from the V. P. I., as it is the logical and best equipped institution in the State for the furtherance of this particular research work. The work done by the survey at the V. P. I. has been of a high order, and the results have been published by the survey have been compiled from work done at the V. P. I., notwithstanding the fact that Professor Watson, recently of the V. P. I., in the publication of his 'Mineral Resources of Virginia' makes it appear to the casual observer that the survey is located, and the work done at the University of Virginia.

"We are of the opinion that the University of Virginia should confine its work to the physical and humanities, in which it excels. "That the V. P. I. should be assigned all technical, industrial and engineering work. That the efforts of each institution should be confined to the work for which they are especially fitted. We heartily concur with the opinion expressed in Dr. Barlinger's letter to Senator Rison, as recently published in the daily papers. "The crying need of the South today is for technically trained men. The V. P. I. has attained a higher standard of technical education than any other institution in the South, and the division of technical education between the two schools in question would be extremely unwise, as neither could maintain the high standard necessary through the division of effort."

Every effort was made yesterday to secure a statement from Senator Rison, but without success. He had left Richmond, and a telegram sent to his home in Chambers was returned undelivered. A telegram was also sent to Dr. E. A. Alderson, president of the University of Virginia. No response was received.

BOARDERS EXCITED

Alleged Attack by Woman, Who Charges Several With Persecution.

Something of a sensation was caused in an apartment house in the East End of the city yesterday afternoon when the porter, it was alleged, in a fit of temporary insanity attacked several women living on the second floor, and flourishing a carving knife, ran them down the stairs. They called for police, and the woman, who is very prominently connected in Richmond and in the State, was arrested and held in the city jail, where, after a somewhat lengthy wait, a commission of larceny was held over her, and she was acquitted. All through the day, word of the woman's story, self with calmness and quiet dignity, and was liberated within a few minutes after the physicians and magistrate had examined her.

In a very rational statement last night the woman alleged that she had been persecuted by one of the men, and was driven from her home in the house, and that the knife in her hand at the time the others fled from her, she had been using in the kitchen to turn over eggs. She was trying for breakfast. She alleges that she went only to the door of her kitchen, and did not go into the hall or attempt to stab any one. The man in question, when seen last night, denied that he had ever offered an insult to the woman. He said that when the slightest word was said to her, he expects soon to move to other quarters.

WEEPS OVER SON

Walter Haley, Arrested for Drunkenness, Brings Anguish to His Father.

After a desperate struggle, Walter Haley, a young white boy, was arrested Saturday afternoon by Captain Tomlinson and Detective Sergeant Bailey on the charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Haley gave the officers a hard struggle just behind Ford's Hotel, where he had arrived after fighting at numerous passersby from lower Franklin Street.

His father came up as he was being placed under arrest. With tears streaming down his face, he said: "You'll break my heart." Miss Bessie McGee, daughter of Mr. E. A. McGee, of the Chesapeake and Ohio, who returned home from the hospital, much improved.



GENERAL LEE GENERAL JACKSON